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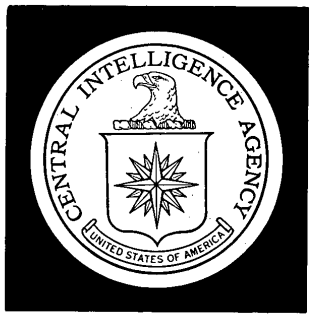

The President's Daily Brief

22 January 1971

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Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 January 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist supply movements in the Laotian panhandle increased sharply in early January. *(Page 1)*

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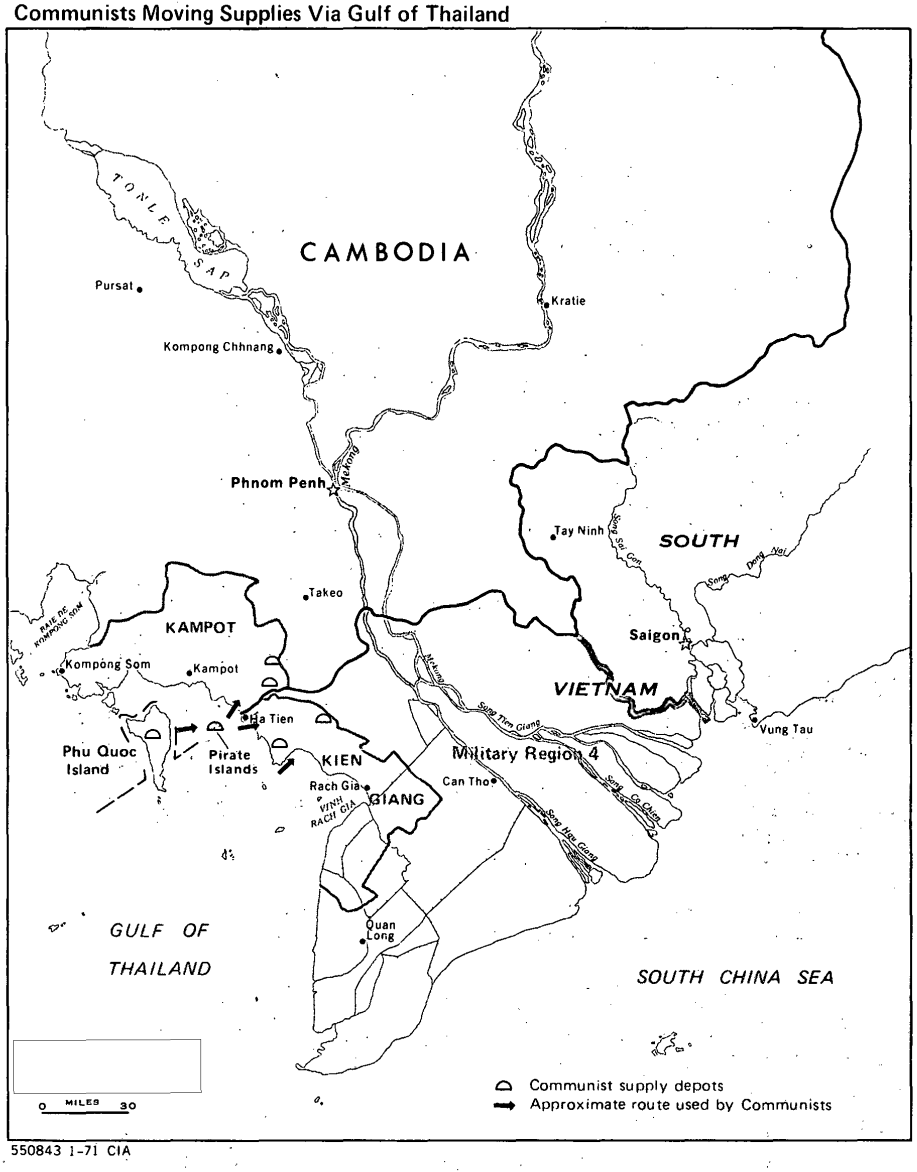
Communists Moving Supplies Via Gulf of Thailand



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INDOCHINA

The flow of supplies between two important logistic units in the Laotian panhandle averaged at least 180 tons nightly in the first ten days of January, according to a recent message. This is about two and a half times the rate moved in December 1970 and is the highest ever detected between two rear service units.

> *With the closing of Kompong Som (Sihanoukville), we have expected the Communists to mount an expanded logistics effort via the panhandle this dry season. Supply activity should remain at a high level throughout the panhandle for the next several months.*

* * *

The Communists are moving small amounts of supplies by sea into southern South Vietnam and Cambodia, according to clandestine sources. Munitions and other supplies move by motorized junks from Phu Quoc Island in the Gulf of Thailand to the Pirate Islands, about nine miles off the coast. In the Pirate Islands supplies are transferred to shallow-draft sampans which travel up the maze of rivers to major supply depots in Kampot Province, Cambodia, and in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam.

> *The areas allegedly being supplied by sea are far removed from the main logistic route through southern Laos. Furthermore, the last deliveries to the delta via Kompong Som occurred in January 1970, and since the allied cross-border operations last spring there have been several reports of ammunition shortages in the delta.*

> *The enemy has traditionally been able to shuttle some supplies along the coast in sampans and junks. Supplies at Phu Quoc Island could get to the mainland in this manner. The US Navy maintains a detection system off the coast, however, and it seems unlikely that the Communists could move large quantities of supplies in from the open sea to Phu Quoc Island.*

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USSR

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